

I wish to enter my comments asking the FCC to reject NAB's petition 04-160. I am a subscriber to XM Satellite Radio. I find their new local weather and traffic information valuable to me. I frequently drive from my home in east central Wisconsin to Chicago. The Chicago weather and traffic allows me to plan what to bring along, and what route to use before I even leave the house. That is long before I am close enough to Chicago to pick up a local station. And the XM service gives me more accurate road conditions further north from Chicago than does the Chicago stations. The XM service is also the better service. For example, to listen to WBBM's traffic, you need to know the code they are speaking in as they are always in a big hurry to get to the next commercial. So much so, that many times, they simply do not get the entire situation properly covered. Not so with the XM service.

I also am disgusted with the two faced position of the NAB. When the discussion on deregulating radio station ownership was underway, the NAB was promoting the view that such deregulation would increase the diversity of programming. Quite the contrary. In my area, the local stations are becoming part of large corporations, with the loss of local broadcast studios. Some of the "local" broadcasts don't even originate in this area. In some, the only "local" left is the commercials, and we are hearing an increasing number of ad minutes per hour.

I'd like to quote from a recent position paper from the Cato Institute. "There's no consumer interest in preventing a new technology from competing with traditional radio coverage of local news, weather and sports. The biggest argument against the new FCC ownership regulations was that when giant multinationals control programming, local programming suffers. Here's an opportunity to expand the number of players in local radio programming, which would give consumers more options, which would compel the industry's dinosaurs to deliver better service, or lose market share. There's really only one reason to ban satellite radio providers from delivering local coverage--to protect the existing radio industry from competition."

To prevent competition in local radio is not in the interest of the general public, and the interest of the general public is what the FCC is charged to protect. Not the self-interests of the NAB. The FCC should reject NAB Petition 04-160.

Thank you.